REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the substance of Claim 4, and Claim 11 is amended to incorporate the substance of Claim 13. Claims 1 and 11 also are amended to more clearly define the present invention over the applied art, following a telephone conference with the Examiner as discussed below. New Claim 27 is added to further define the present invention for which coverage is sought. Claims 5 and 14 are amended for proper dependency. Claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14-27 remain, with no claim previously allowed.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on January 26, 2005. During that interview, the undersigned pointed out that *Grady* (US 2001/0056463) fails to disclose an application having a privacy option which, when activated by a user, results in the removal of personal information from a document without deleting that document, and replaces that removed personal information with generic information. This argument by the Applicants was based on proposed amendments to the claims, submitted by fax to the Examiner on January 12, 2005. The Examiner countered that the "privacy option", as recited in those proposed claims, failed to distinguish over the operation disclosed in *Grady*, namely, renaming folders as discussed in paragraph [0092] of that reference.

Proposed new Claim 27 was also discussed during that interview. The Examiner indicated that new Claim 27 appeared novel over *Grady*.

Based on the Examiner's comments during an interview, the undersigned has further amended Claims 1 and 11 as here presented. Thus, Claim 1 now defines a method including the step of activating a privacy option comprising computer-implemented instructions provided by the document-generating application and operative to remove one or more pieces of personal information from the document without deleting that document. The method of Claim 1 further defines the step of removing the personal information as comprising the computer-implemented step of replacing the [removed] pieces of personal information with generic information.

Claim 11, as now presented, includes the method step of receiving input to activate a computer-implemented privacy option for the document. Activating that privacy option results in the removal of one or more pieces of personal information from

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the document without deleting the document, and the step of removing personal information from the document comprises <u>the computer-implemented step of replacing the [removed] personal information with generic information</u>.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 thus now define the privacy option of the present method as comprising computer-implemented instructions that, when activated, operate to remove one or more pieces of personal information from the document and to replace that removed personal information with generic information. This specific identification of the privacy option is found in the Applicants' specification at page 3, lines 28-31. The Examiner's attention is also invited to the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 of the specification, wherein "privacy option" is described as an optional, user-activetable command which enables the process of removing one or more pieces of personal information from a document.

The Applicants respectfully submit that current-amended Claims 1 and 11 define combinations of method steps not anticipated by *Grady*. Nothing in that reference discloses a privacy option comprising computer-implemented instructions that, when activated, remove one or more pieces of personal information from a document and replace the removed information with generic information. The discussions at paragraphs [0092] and [0101] of *Grady* merely describe renaming a folder [0092]; or changing personal information such as e-mail address, updating personal information, and changing passwords [0101]. Those teaching of *Grady* appear to describe only operations common to many application programs, namely, the ability to rename folders or files, or to update personal information previously entered into the program. *Grady* simply does not disclose any option which, when activated, provides computer-implemented instructions to remove personal information from a document and to replace that removed information with generic information. That method comes only from the present Applicants, not from *Grady*. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 11, and the claims depending thereon, are novel over that reference.

New Claim 27 depends from Claim 1. Claim 27 describes the document generating program as generating a comment box containing a comment added to the first electronic document by a user, and also containing personal information about the user adding that comment. Fig. 5 of the application illustrates a comment box including the
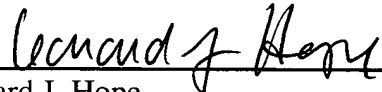
comment ("This is a comment .") and personal information ("Mary Smith") about the user adding the comment. Claim 27 further defines the step of activating the privacy option as enabling removal of the personal information from the comment box without removing the comment. Fig. 6 of the present application illustrates that further step of new Claim 27. Nothing in *Grady* discloses a method whereby activating a privacy option removes personal information from a comment box without removing the comment itself. Accordingly, new Claim 27 is novel over *Grady*.

Claims 19 and 21 are amended to make clear that the recited invention comprises computer-implemented removal of personal information and computer-implemented replacement with generic information, without deleting the document. Those claims are novel over *Grady* for the above reasons.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The claims remaining in this application are deemed novel over the applied art, and the Applicants request a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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